United Nations S/2000/708

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 July 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the most recent act of vandalism committed by ethnic Albanian extremists in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

During the night between 16 and 17 July 2000, ethnic Albanian terrorists dynamited the Orthodox Church of St. Elijah in the village of Pomazatin, Municipality of Kosovo Polje. The church had already been dynamited and burned on 3 August 1999 and has now been razed to the ground.

The crime is yet another instance in the series of terrorist and barbaric acts, aimed at accelerating the process of the ethnic cleansing of Serbs and other non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija. I recall that 87 Orthodox churches and monasteries have been destroyed in this Serbian province so far. The shrines of Orthodox Christianity have been targeted by ethnic Albanian extremists as they represent the source of spirituality and exemplify the centuries-long presence of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. The targets are also isolated and vulnerable Serbian enclaves and the goal of the terrorists is to intimidate the Serbs and force them to leave their ancestral homes.

The dynamiting of the Church of St. Elijah at Pomazatin is yet another piece of evidence of the dramatic deterioration of the overall situation in Kosovo and Metohija and of the cultural genocide conducted against the Serbian people through terror and vandalism. The crime that came in the wake of the shelling of Velika Hoca, Gorazdevac and the Roma refugee camp in northern Kosovska Mitrovica provides also eloquent proof that the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army has not been demilitarized and disarmed.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to strongly condemn the dynamiting of the Church of St. Elijah and to enjoin the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to take all necessary measures to find and punish the perpetrators of this criminal act and to prevent the destruction of the Serbian cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo and Metohija.

00-54194 (E) 200700

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/709

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 July 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you upon the instruction of my Government following the statement of the President adopted by the Security Council on 13 July 2000.

Through various stratagems, the States members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United States of America, in particular, and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina have sought for five years now to manufacture the case of Srebrenica and impute it to the Serbian people in Republika Srpska and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Specifically, they have manipulated with the alleged thousands of dead Muslims, even though numerous international commissions have found no mass graves at Srebrenica.

The statement of the President is not founded on facts and material evidence and, as such, it constitutes yet another instalment of the long propaganda campaign carried out by the countries opposed to the stabilization of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina in an effort to undermine and revise the Dayton/Paris Agreement and destabilize the entire region. The statement of the President is also a function of the continued political pressure being brought to bear on Republika Srpska, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serbian people in general.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-54184 (E) 200700

United Nations S/2000/710

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 July 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing upon the instruction of my Government following the debate in the meeting of the Security Council on 13 July 2000.

My Government is dismayed and deeply disappointed by the fact that there was no clear condemnation in the debate of the ethnic cleansing and terror conducted by the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army against the Serbs, Turks, Roma, Muslims and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

Putting one's head in the sand, flouting responsibility and pandering to the policy of *fait accompli* have characterized the debate also on this occasion. Instead, resolve to take vigorous concrete measures to eradicate terrorism, organized crime and a systematic violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 in Kosovo and Metohija was what was called for and what should have been the order of the day.

I take the opportunity to recall that conditions do not allow for holding elections in Kosovo and Metohija. The interests of peace, stability and a political solution enjoin another sequence of moves: implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), ensurance of security to all residents of Kosovo and Metohija, demilitarization and disarmament of the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, return of the expellees, deportation of foreign nationals and an agreement on a political solution to be followed by elections.

Regrettably, the debate bore out this time the domination of those actors in the Security Council that support separatism and terrorism, as well as the policy of *fait accompli*. Such a policy also serves to erode the authority of the Security Council, the organ of the United Nations, whose primary responsibility is to safeguard international peace and security.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will not consider itself bound by the effects of that policy and will deem all decisions contrary to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and its sovereignty and territorial integrity null and void.

00-54178 (E) 200700

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.